

**Comments on text resulting from the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Code
Commission Report – September 2005 Meeting
Submitted by the United States of America**

Chapter 1.1.1

General Definitions

Specific comments

We are submitting the following comments to specific text contained within Chapter 1.1.1, General Definitions.

Definitions

Current proposed text:

Animal handler - A person with a knowledge of the behavior and needs of animals which, with appropriate experience and a professional and positive response to an animal's needs, results in effective management and good welfare. Their competence should be demonstrated through independent assessment and certification.

Suggested proposed text:

Animal handler: A person with knowledge of the behavior and needs of animals, who, with appropriate experience and a professional and positive response to an animal's needs, contributes to effective management and good welfare. ~~Their competence should be demonstrated through independent assessment and certification.~~

Comment/Rational: Our experts do not endorse the requirement that the competence of an animal handler should be demonstrated through independent assessment and certification. The requirement appears to be prohibitively difficult for member countries to implement and enforce. Certification programs are both time consuming and costly, and therefore, impractical for the vast amount of personnel involved in humane depopulation in the event of a foreign animal disease outbreak. We recommend deleting the requirement for independent assessment but endorse the requirement of appropriate experience and a professional and positive response to an animal's needs.

Current proposed text:

Journey – An animal transport journey commences when the first animal is loaded onto a vehicle/vessel or into a container and ends when the last animal is unloaded, and includes any stationary resting/holding periods of less than 48 hours. The same animals do not commence a new journey until after a period of over 48 hours for rest and recuperation, with adequate feed and water.

Suggested proposed text:

Journey – An animal transport journey commences when the first animal is loaded on a vehicle/vessel or into a container and ends when the last animal is unloaded.

Comment/Rational:

Our experts question the rational for the use of 48 hours or less as a time span concerning stationary resting/holding periods for animals. There does not appear to be a corresponding requirement for the restriction on journey length or duration of rest periods specified in the Guidelines for the Transport of Animals by Land or Guidelines for the Transport of Animals by Sea. If specific criteria related to journeys are required, we recommend that it is included in the proposed guidelines for transport.

Current proposed text:

Lairage – Pens, yards and other holding areas used for accommodating animals in order to give them necessary attention (including water, feed, rest) before they are moved on or used for specific purposes including slaughter.

Suggested proposed text:

Lairage – Pens, yards and other holding areas used for accommodating animals in order to give them necessary attention ~~(including water, feed, rest)~~ before they are moved on or used for specific purposes including slaughter.

Comment/Rational:

Our experts question whether if specifying water, feed, and rest in the definition implies that all of these things must be provided in lairage? The provision of feed may not be appropriate in certain situations, such as lairage prior to slaughter.

Current proposed text:

Stunning - Any mechanical, electrical, chemical or other procedure which causes immediate loss of consciousness, when used before slaughter, the loss of consciousness lasts until death from the slaughter process; in the absence of slaughter, the procedure would allow the animal to recover consciousness.

Suggested proposed text:

Stunning - Any mechanical, electrical, chemical or other procedure that ~~which~~ causes immediate loss of consciousness, when used before slaughter, the loss of consciousness lasts until death from the slaughter process. ~~; in the absence of slaughter, the procedure would allow the animal to recover consciousness.~~

Comment/Rational:

Our experts recommend the change in the definition based on the question of when would stunning be performed with the expectation that an animal would be expected to recover. Animals destined for slaughter are typically stunned using physical means (i.e. mechanical or electrical methods) or controlled atmospheric stunning (chemical). Other

chemical approaches to loss of consciousness that are employed with the expectation of recovery are more appropriately referred to as anesthesia.

Current proposed text:

Transporter- The person licensed by the Competent Authority to transport animals.

Suggested proposed text:

Transporter/Transport Company – The person/company licensed by the Competent Authority to transport animals.

Comment/Rational:

The term transporter is only used once within the proposed guidelines, Article 3.7.3.7, Travel, Item 7, Part (b). “The responsible rail transporter should monitor the progress etc.” Conversely, the guidelines refer to “transport company” several times through out the document but the term is not defined in the proposed text. Are the two terms meant to be used interchangeably or are they two distinct entities?